

RTC 10 Minutes—March 5, 2014

The RTC 10 meeting was called to order by Jan Robertson, Region 10 Coordinator at 3:30 pm Present were Todd Prusha, Rebecca Furlong, Bill Lynch, Jed Peterson, Dave Brouard, Pat McGinty, and Marcel Kielkucki.

Phil Groner joined us from ICN.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Due to a lack of a quorum, the minutes from 7/31/14 were not approved.

Phil Groner gave the ICN update. He relayed that ICN had completed 2 major projects in the past year; the BTOP project and the ICN RFP. As of this time, there is one major legislative initiative concerning ICN.

HF2329/SS 3099

Titled the “Connect Every Iowan Act”, the bill relates to and provides for the facilitation of broadband access in unserved or underserved areas of the state. The Act moves toward ICN 2.0, repurposing the ICN to allow private providers to purchase unused ICN bandwidth at wholesale rates. This will allow the private sector to build off of the ICN to serve retail customers such as homes, businesses and local governments. The bill contains important protections for the private sector, such as a transparent pricing process and an opportunity for private wholesale providers to meet or beat the ICN’s wholesale prices.

There is currently 60% of the ICN capacity being used by authorized users. 30% of the capacity could be wholesaled with the remaining 10% being reserved for whoever needs the capacity.

This past year, Part III sites (150-160 locations) have been updated from DS3 to 100 Meg Ethernet. There were 7 schools in RTC 10 areas that were upgraded – Alburnett, Center Point Urbana, Linn-Mar, Marion, English Valley, Norway and Olin.

Region 10 RTC Member Reports:

Bill Lynch- At the end of the school year, he will be only serving as HLVs superintendent. This fall, Kirkwood had used Zoom to provide classroom instruction from one of their KTS rooms to students at Belle Plaine.

Jed Peterson – Prairie is looking at what their next 1:1 format will look like. Jed has also been teaching blended learning classes for the Iowa Area Education Agencies. Online Learning for Iowa Educators (OLLIE) and More Online Learning for Iowa Educators (MOLLIE).

Todd Prusha – Kirkwood has been exploring the use of Zoom to offer college credit classes in high schools in Region 10. They have also been using Zoom to teach English to Brazil high school students.

Dave Brouard was filling in for Lisa Fry. Grant Wood AEA has also been exploring the use of Zoom. Dave is the Director of Information Technology. They have been testing the bandwidth requirements for online testing programs required by the state. Some schools may need to possibly purchase 3 times the amount they currently have in order for this software to work.

Rebecca Furlong – Iowa City school district teachers are exploring innovative uses of technology in the classrooms. Skype has been used for students at home with health issues and also for students that need to be in a quiet room and still participate in classes. They have also been using MindMixer for community engagement on their website.

Pat McGinty – ICN has been allowing school districts to increase their bandwidth for 30 days to complete the required math testing so schools aren't locked into purchasing un-needed bandwidth.

Marcel Kielkucki - He is a member of the Virtual Education Research Alliance. A survey of high schools use of online learning tools in their buildings has been completed and will be released soon to the public. He noted that one concern was on professional development training for teaching online classes. Kirkwood's high school distance learning classes have been holding steady from last year and they have a 72% completion rate.

There are 2 virtual schools in Iowa – Iowa Virtual Academy associated with Clayton Ridge and Iowa Connections Academy operating under the CAM school district. The Iowa Department of Education annual report can be found at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/APPS/AR/D46D8D29-9264-403B-A8BC-8B44B1EFF870/Virtual%20School%20Full%20Report.pdf>

Jan Robertson – There are four school districts offering foreign language classes over ICN for the fall/spring semester.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 4th, 2014 pending legislative appropriations to ICN.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Robertson,
RTC Coordinator